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**Letters**


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## Shutting up isn't part of being an American

**Dear Editor:**

This past Wednesday, the Congressional District 5 Representative J.D. Hayworth came to Ahwatukee to address the 202 freeway issue. About 200 people showed up and seemed to be mostly against the freeway and for anything that came out of Hayworth's mouth. About two-thirds of the meeting was consumed by talk about the freeway. Even though I listened to all of it, I still couldn't tell you what he's going to do about it. It seems he is just leading people to believe that he can stop the freeway, when he knows he cannot.

Towards the end of the meeting the topic changed to immigration. Since it's the subject of his new book, J.D. welcomed this discussion. When it began to die down, I decided to bring up a new topic: J.D.'s support for the Iraq war. He had earlier stated that he was "Bush's biggest advocate." That goes without saying, in my opinion. I asked if J.D. had any regrets about his cheerlead-



Brian A. Barbour/AFN

A letter writer says he was treated less than graciously when he made his anti-war sentiments known at last week's town hall with J.D. Hayworth.

ing for the Iraq war and listed the following facts:

- Reasons for the war had turned out to not be true

- The rising number of dead and wounded Americans
- The still-increasing billions of dollars in taxpayer money

- Majority of Americans now against the war

- Majority of Iraqis want us out of their country

- The Zogby poll that suggests 72 percent of our troops think we should leave within 1 year

My question was then interrupted. People began booing, and I even heard a woman say, "Kick him out." A man then shouted an expletive and informed me that he was a Marine, but I insisted that I finish my question.

It's disappointing that there are people living in Ahwatukee whose reaction to others with different views is to shout them down or kick them out. I believe that being critical of our politicians when they send our kids to war is a must for every American.

Apparently, there are people who disagree and believe a good American is one who will shut up and wave the flag.

**Nicholas Collins**